

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23, 24, 27, 33 and 34 remain in the application. The subject matter of claim 25 has been incorporated in claim 23 wherefore claim 25 has been canceled. Claims 26 and 28-32 have been withdrawn.

The rejection of amended claim 23, incorporating the subject matter of claim 25, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mantel, the primary reference, in view of Kollmann et al, the secondary reference, is respectfully traversed. As has been conceded by the examiner, Mantel does not show the claimed means for extending the sliding sections. Applicants respectfully submit that Kollmann et al do not suggest the arrangement shown in Fig. 3 of the present application and recited in claim 25.

As shown in Fig. 2 of Kollmann et al, three telescopingly interengaging boom sections 21, 9 and 10 are displaced relative to each other by two linear actuating mechanisms 15, 16 extending parallel to each other. Actuating mechanism 15 is linked to boom sections 2a and 9 while boom sections 9 and 10 are linked to actuating mechanism 16. Since the actuating mechanisms 15, 16 are linked by joints 22, 23 and 28, 29 to the respective boom sections, it is impossible to displace curved

sections relative to each other with these actuating mechanisms. This is made possible, as set forth in claim 25 (now amended claim 23), with applicants' disclosed arrangement in which each cylinder has one end linked to an outer end of a respective one of the box girders and an opposite end to a common slider mounted displaceably in the end of the first box girder. Nothing like this is suggested by Kollmann et al so that the incorporation of their teaching in the Mantel structure cannot make the claimed subject matter obvious.

All that Figs. 3a, 3b of Kollmann et al show is that actuating mechanisms 15, 16 comprise telescoping elements 17, 18 housing three sectional cylinders 19, 20, 21. Joint 22, 23 of the three linked-together cylinders are still linked to the boom sections in the above-indicated manner. Contrary to Kollmann et al, applicants do not seek replace their cylinders 20 by the Kollmann et al actuating mechanisms consisting of three linked cylinders but to provide an actuating mechanism which can be used to displace non-linear telescoping sections relative to each other. This is not suggested by Kollmann et al so that amended claim 23 is respectfully submitted clearly to be patentable. Claims 24 and 27 depend on amended claim 23 and are believed to be allowable therewith.

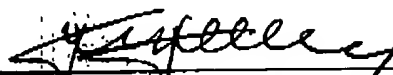
The rejection of claims 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as unpatentable over Mantel, the primary reference, in view of DE 3804557, cited by applicants, is respectfully traversed. Claim 33 requires that at least one traction element of each pair of traction elements 29, 30 is adjustable relative to the other traction element of this pair. As can be seen in Fig. 10, this makes it possible to tilt a bin 26. According to the cited German reference, containers may be suspended by carrier struts 15 in the embodiment of Figs. 1-8 or ropes 15' in the embodiment of Figs. 9-12. They are not adjustable relative to each other. Therefore, the specific arrangement of traction elements set forth in claim 33 is not believed to be obvious from the cited German patent, and this claim is respectfully submitted to be patentable. Claim 34 depends thereon and is believed to be allowable therewith.

Since the subject matter of claim 25 (amended claim 23) was before the examiner at the time the final rejection was issued, the amendment raises no new issues and its entry is accordingly respectfully requested in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance of better form for appeal. A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 23, 24, 27, 33 and 34 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

UDO WINTER ET AL

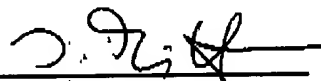


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Enclosure:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by telefax to the US PTO, Fax No. 703-872-9327 on May 15, 2003.



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